

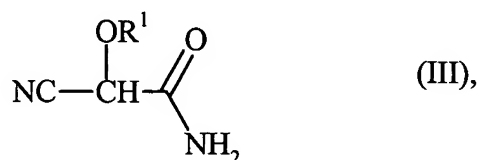
Amendments To The Claims

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

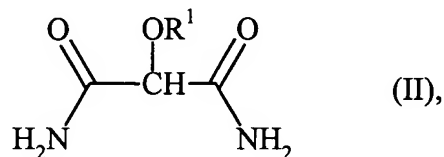
Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamide 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamides of the formula:

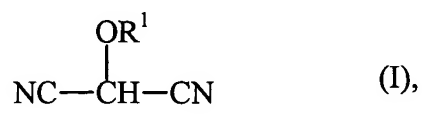


where R¹ is C₁₋₆-alkyl or halogen-substituted C₁₋₁₆-alkyl, ~~characterized comprising reacting the appropriate~~ an alkoxy malonamide alkoxy malonamides of the general formula:



where R¹ is ~~C₁₋₆-alkyl or halogen-substituted C₁₋₁₆-alkyl,~~ is as defined above, with a dehydrating agent to obtain the 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamide of formula (III), and stopping the reaction ~~is then stopped before the reaction continues to 2-cyano-2-~~

alkoxyacetamides (I) dehydrating agent converts the 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamide of formula (III) to an alkoxymalononitrile of the formula:



where R¹ is C₁₋₆-alkyl or halogen-substituted C₁₋₁₆-alkyl.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the reaction is stopped by cooling the reaction mixture to 50 to 0°C.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the dehydrating agent used is trifluoroacetic anhydride, dibutyltin oxide, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus trichloride or phosphorus pentachloride.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the dehydrating agent is used in a quantity ~~quantities~~ of from 0.5 to 6 molar equivalent per amide group of the alkoxymalonamide (II).

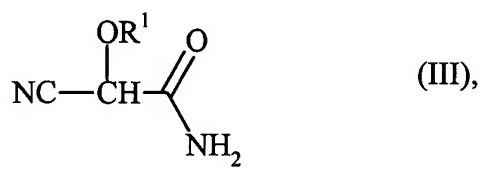
Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the dehydration is carried out in a boiling solvent.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 2, wherein the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the Lewis acid used is AlCl₃.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A compound of formula:



where R^1 is C_{1-6} -alkyl or halogen-substituted C_{1-16} -alkyl.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the dehydrating agent used is trifluoroacetic anhydride, dibutyltin oxide, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus trichloride or phosphorus pentachloride.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the dehydration is carried out in a boiling solvent.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the dehydration is carried out in a boiling solvent.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the dehydration is carried out in a boiling solvent.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 3, wherein the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 4, wherein the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 5, wherein the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 6, wherein the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

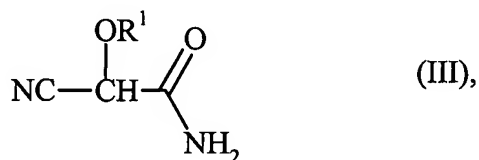
Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein R¹ methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

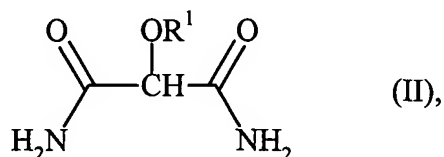
Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein R¹ is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 25 (New): A process for preparing a 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamide of the formula:



where R¹ is C₁₋₆-alkyl or halogen-substituted C₁₋₁₆-alkyl, comprising reacting an alkoxy malonamide of the formula:



where R¹ is as defined above, with a dehydrating agent to obtain the 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamide of formula (III).